

October 5, 2012

Weekly Views

Indiana Women's Prison (IWP) Superintendent Steve McCauley and IWP Staff thank the Department of Correction Central Office staff, CISM and DOC Facilities for their flowers, phone calls, e-mails and support during this difficult time. A special thanks to Rockville Superintendent and staff for relieving IWP facility staff to allow an opportunity for them to pay their respect to Major Wiltsie and his family during the funeral on Saturday. There are not enough words of gratitude. "We are family, and it was evidenced throughout this past week!"

Staff from throughout the Indiana Department of Correction (IDOC) attended the 2012 Indiana Criminal Justice Association's (ICJA) Fall Conference in Indianapolis. During the ICJA/IDOC Awards

Luncheon, Commissioner Bruce Lemmon, Chief of Staff Amanda Copeland, and Deputy Commissioner Randy Koester presented the Annual Commissioner's Awards to staff who have exhibited exemplary service to the Department and the State of Indiana. Among this year's recipients were Gil Peters (Branchville)- Superintendent of the Year, Ernest Rush (Putnamville)- Chaplain of the Year, Camp Summit Boot Camp- Facility of the Year, Keith Butts (Pendleton)- Correctional Professional of the Year, Michael Biddle (Miami)- Corrections Supervisor of the Year, Michele Lincoln Wabash Valley)-Distinguished Service, Sandra Kibby-Brown (Central Office)- Employee of the Year. Bryan Dobbs (Edinburgh)- Administrative Support Employee of the Year, Jessica Townley (PD 6 Gary)- Rising Star, Pam Powell (PEN)- Prison Enterprise Employee of the Year, Jon Scheets (PD1 Re-entry)- Parole Agent of the Year, Michele David-Masley (Indiana State Prison)- Human Resources Employee of the Year, Roger Dagley (Wabash Valley)- Physical Plant Employee of the Year, and Kelli Searing (Putnamville)- Re-Entry Employee of the Year.

IDOC hosted its 3rd Annual Softball Tournament at Hummel Park in Plainfield, IN. Thirteen teams from throughout the Department participated in the tournament. The Championship game was between Madison's "Underdogs" and Putnamville's "DYNASTY". "DYNASTY" pulled out a victory in a highly competitive game. Travis Mitten from Putnamville received the MVP Award and Terri Riley received the Sportsmanship Award. Everyone who came to play or cheer for their team had a great time.

Putnamville Correctional Facility Assistant Superintendent Tim Phegley presented Correctional Officer Howard Wilson with the Governor's Long-term Service award in recognition of 35 years of service to the Department. Officer Randall Gordon, Caseworker Nora Spence, Sergeant Daniel Bell and Administrative Assistant Alisia Lawrence were recipients of the Employee of the Quarter awards and a retirement celebration was held in honor of Caseworker Jim Louderbac, 33 years, and Clerical Assistant Patty Freeman, 27 years.

Wabash Valley Correctional Facility's Fatherhood and PLUS programs each donated \$250 to a class at Carlisle Elementary and Junior High School in Sullivan County. The \$500 donation helped fund her 5th grade students' "Nature Classroom" field trip at the Merom Conference Center. The students learned about the history of the area, natural resources, and how the Wabash River benefits the entire Wabash Valley region.

The Indianapolis Re-entry Educational Facility (IREF) hosted a Community Advisory Board meeting. Members of the Board discussed and provided feedback on proposed new and current projects occurring at IREF, including the upcoming grand re-opening of the Family Education Department and the Children's Visitation Center on October 27. Family Management Coordinator Tamera Shirley oversees the programs, which once operated on federal grants, has revamped and developed family-friendly programs and designed classes based on the needs of the incarcerated fathers and their children. The Children Visitation Center has undergone an artistic transition that promotes interaction and stimulates discussion among residents and their children.

Volunteers from the Liberty Bible Church, in cooperation with the Westville Correctional Facility (WCC), presented the first class of Dave's Ramsey's Financial Peace to offenders from WCC's Therapeutic Community. The nine session program is a spiritually based curriculum that teaches the fundamentals of managing money, while showing participants how to make better financial decisions. Fifteen offenders were selected to participate in the program based on their interest in gaining monetary information and their commitment to a financially responsible lifestyle.

The PEN Products Miami Accessible Media Project, known for Braille transcription and large print publishing, is proud to announce that two offenders have earned their certifications from the National Library Service through the Library of Congress as Proofreaders. They are the only certified proofreaders in the State of Indiana.

The Correctional Industrial Facility (CIF) would like to give a big thank-you to the Bureau of Motor Vehicles for sending an exceptional team of employees who provided over 100 state IDs to offenders at CIF. According to Re-Entry Program Coordinator Dan Crafton, "The BMV team was outstanding and the process went extremely well. The offenders were very appreciative." All offenders had to be within three years of release and were excited to have another step in the process toward re-entry complete. Thank you again BMV!

Four Probation Officers from Putnam County toured the Rockville Correctional Facility (RCF). The tour provided the Officers a chance to speak with programming staff and the opportunity to see the many rehabilitation programs available to female offenders at the largest women's facility in the State. The group asked many thoughtful questions regarding the intake and sentencing processes and opened the lines of communication between RCF staff and Probation staff.